

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) A medicine prototype support system for an ingredient manufacturer developing medical product at a request of a product manufacturer comprising:

one or more computer processors;

a database using a storage device for storing comprising main ingredient information comprising at least confidential first main ingredient information and second main ingredient information, the first confidential main ingredient information being confidential information of the product manufacturer;

communication means for receiving main ingredient information from the database;

information conversion means using at least one of the one or more computer processors for selecting a second main ingredient information that has one or more material having properties similar to a the confidential first main ingredient information and from which it is difficult to estimate one or more medically effective ingredients of the confidential first main ingredient information;

composition ingredient determination means using at least one of the one or more computer processors for selecting composition ingredient information based on the first main ingredient information and the selected second main ingredient information; and

communication means for transmitting the selected second main ingredient information and the selected composition ingredient information to a computer system of a composition manufacturer-system; wherein

~~and~~

~~composition ingredient determination means for selecting a composition ingredient based on the properties of the first and second main ingredients, wherein~~

the medicine prototype support system is configured to receive a first request for prototype manufacture, including the confidential first main ingredient information, from a computer system of the product manufacturer, to select the second main ingredient information using the information conversion means, to select the composition ingredient information using the composition ingredient determination means, and to transmit a second request for prototype manufacture including the selected second main ingredient information and the selected composition ingredient information to the a computer system of the composition manufacturer system, so that the confidential first main ingredient information received from the computer system of the product manufacturer is not transmitted to the computer system of the composition manufacturer

~~the first confidential main ingredient information is confidential information of the product manufacturer, and~~

~~the medicine prototype support system does not reveal the identity of the confidential first main ingredient to the composition manufacturer system.~~

7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A medicine prototype support system for an ingredient manufacturer developing medical product at a request of a product manufacturer comprising:

one or more computer processors;

a database using a storage device for storing including main ingredient information comprising at least confidential first main ingredient information and second main ingredient information, the first confidential main ingredient information being confidential information of the product manufacturer and the second main ingredient information being non-confidential;

information conversion software that selects a second main ingredient information having one or more properties similar to a confidential first main ingredient information and from which it is difficult to estimate one or more medically effective ingredients of the confidential first main ingredient information;

composition ingredient determination software that selects a composition ingredient information based on the one or more properties of the confidential first main ingredient information and selected second main ingredient information ingredients; and

a server for transmitting the selected second main ingredient information and the selected composition ingredient information to a computer system of a composition manufacturer system, wherein

the medicine prototype support system is configured to receive a first request for prototype manufacture, including the confidential first main ingredient information, from the product manufacturer, to select the second main ingredient using the information conversion software means, to select the composition ingredient using the composition

ingredient determination software means, and to transmit a second request for prototype manufacture including the second main ingredient information and the composition ingredient information to the composition manufacturer system, so that the confidential first main ingredient information received from the computer system of the product manufacturer is not transmitted to the computer system of the composition manufacturer

~~the first main ingredient information is confidential information of the product manufacturer,~~

~~the second main ingredient information is non-confidential, and~~

~~the medicine prototype support system does not reveal the identity of the confidential first main ingredient to the composition manufacturer system.~~

10. (Currently Amended) A method of using a medicine prototype support system ~~requesting prototype manufacture from a composition manufacturer~~ comprising the steps of:

receiving a first request for prototype manufacture from a computer system of a product manufacturer via a communications server, the request including first main ingredient information that is confidential information of the product manufacturer;

storing the confidential first main ingredient information in a database contained in a storage device,

using the database to select ~~selecting~~ a second main ingredient having one or more properties similar to the confidential main ingredient and from which it is difficult to

estimate one or more medically effective ingredients of the confidential first ingredient information;

determining a composition ingredient based on the confidential main ingredient information and the selected second main ingredient information;

transmitting a second request for prototype manufacture to the a computer system of a composition manufacturer via the communications server, the request for prototype manufacture including the identities of the selected second main ingredient and the selected composition ingredient; and

maintaining the confidentiality of the confidential first main ingredient information by not transmitting the confidential first main ingredient information to the computer system of the composition manufacturer.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising transmitting a second request for prototype manufacture to a second composition manufacturer.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the confidential main ingredient information received from the product manufacturer includes the identity of the main ingredient.

13. (Currently Amended) A medicine prototype support system for an ingredient manufacturer developing medical product at a request of a product manufacturer comprising:

one or more computer processors;

a database using a storage device for storing ~~comprising~~ main ingredient information comprising at least confidential first main ingredient information and second main ingredient information, the confidential first main ingredient information being confidential information of the product manufacturer

information conversion means using at least one of the computer processors for selecting a second main ingredient information by comparing properties of a the confidential main ingredient information stored in the database with properties of a plurality of potential second main ingredients stored in the database;

composition ingredient determination means for selecting a composition ingredient based on the one or more properties of the confidential first main ingredient information and selected second main ingredient information ~~ingredients~~; and

communication means for receiving confidential first main ingredient information from a product manufacturer and for transmitting the selected second main ingredient information and the selected composition ingredient information to a composition manufacturer system, wherein

the medicine prototype support system is configured to receive a first request for prototype manufacture, including the confidential first main ingredient information, from the product manufacturer, to select the second main ingredient using the information conversion means, to select the composition ingredient using the composition ingredient determination means, and to transmit a second request for prototype manufacture including the second main ingredient information and the composition ingredient information to the composition manufacturer system,

~~the first confidential main ingredient information being confidential information of the product manufacturer,~~

the medicine prototype support system does not reveal the identity of the confidential first main ingredient to the composition manufacturer system, and

the information conversion means selects the second main ingredient such that it is ~~impossible~~ difficult to estimate ~~the development~~ one or more medically effective ingredients of the confidential first main ingredient information from the selected second main ingredient information.